

A regular session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Eberline. Present: McDonald, Kuester, Smith, Lamp and Rasmussen. Absent: None. Visitors: Jason Hilby, Katie Rasmussen, Natalie Kracht, Norm Johnson, and JR Kennedy.

Smith moved and Rasmussen seconded the approval of the meeting agenda with no conflicts of interest. No discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Rasmussen moved and Lamp seconded action for approval of the minutes of the regular and special sessions held Monday, April 7, 2025. No further discussions, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline introduced Norm Johnson, CEO of Family YMCA, for a discussion on a request from the Grundy YMCA to utilize the Aquatic Center for water aerobics and swim lessons. Johnson explained they received a grant to offer swimming lessons to YMCA summer day camp children to teach water safety to young children. Johnson also commented on a partnership with the local 4-H program to offer swimming lessons to anyone child also involved in 4-H to increase water safety to rural communities. Discussion was held on how to staff the aquatic and work out details. No formal action taken, more details to come.

McDonald moved and Rasmussen seconded action to open the public hearing at 6:47pm on the fiscal year 2026 annual city budget to set the property tax levy at \$16.23685/\$1000 assessed valuation. No public comment made. Smith moved and Lamp seconded action to close this public hearing at 6:49pm. No further discussion, motions carried five ayes,

Smith moved and McDonald seconded action on Resolution 2025-14, a resolution authorizing the adoption of the fiscal year 2026 annual city budget and set the property tax levy at \$16.23685/\$1000 assessed valuation. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Lamp moved and McDonald seconded action to open the public hearing at 6:50pm on Ordinance 581, the ordinance to amend Chapter 110 Natural Gas Franchise granting Black Hills/Iowa Gas Utility Company LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy, the authority to construct, operate, maintain, and extend a natural gas distribution plant and system, and granting the right to use the streets, alleys, and other public places within the present or future corporate limits. No public comments. Smith moved and Rasmussen seconded action to close this public hearing at 6:51pm. No further discussion, motions carried five ayes.

Smith moved and Lamp seconded action on the First Reading of Ordinance 581, an ordinance to amend Chapter 110 Natural Gas Franchise granting Black Hills/Iowa Gas Utility Company LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy, the authority to construct, operate, maintain, and extend a natural gas distribution plant and system, and granting the right to use the streets, alleys, and other public places within the present or future corporate limits. No further discussions were held. Rasmussen moved and McDonald seconded a motion to suspend the rules and move to the third reading of Ordinance 581 at the next meeting. No further discussions, motions carried five ayes.

Lamp moved and McDonald seconded action on Resolution 2025-15, a resolution to award a BIG Grant of \$15,327 to Natalie Kracht, Natural Grind, 721 G Avenue for HVAC and tuckpointing project. Sawyer commented this is the only BIG Grant application received for this Spring grant cycle. Kracht was acknowledged and explained this is a huge project and is very appreciative of the assistance in saving her building. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on the Catalyst Grant with JR Kennedy, owner of 602 G Avenue, and possibly take action to sign termination of the development agreement. Kennedy was acknowledged and asked for a progress update on the project. Kennedy commented the project is on the back burner with no update at this time due to cost estimates. Rasmussen asked if the building is currently being marketed for sale. Kennedy commented not at this time. Smith moved and Rasmussen seconded action to authorize Mayor Eberline to sign the termination of the development agreement with JR & Michelle Kennedy. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the discussion on the City's contract with Iowa Economic Development Authority for the Catalyst Grant and possibly act. Katie Rasmussen, Chamber Main Street Director, explained this Catalyst Grant is a competitive grant, and the City was invited to apply for it for 602 G Avenue based on the scope of work needed on the property. However, due to several circumstances such as the building owners have changed and costs for the project have risen drastically, the city's best course of action would be to terminate the contract with Iowa Economic Development Authority since the contract completion date is June 26, 2025, and that will not be met. Rasmussen moved and Kuester seconded action to authorize Mayor Eberline to sign the termination letter to IEDA for this Catalyst Grant due to no

progress being made on the building. Sawyer confirmed no funds have been expended on this grant during the past two years. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Lamp moved and Smith seconded action to approve Mayor Eberline's appointments of Darrel Shuey, Ambulance Board, three-year term ending December 31, 2027; Dave Stefl, Planning & Zoning Commission, five-year term ending December 31, 2030; Sara Wegmann, Planning & Zoning Commission, five-year term ending December 31, 2030; Lori Burmester, Board of Adjustments, five-year term ending December 31, 2029; Chad Vanwechel, Tree Board, three-year term ending December 31, 2027; Eric Neverman, Tree Board, three-year term ending December 31, 2027; Mike Muller, Tree Board, three-year term ending December 31, 2028; Dan Bangasser, Tree Board, three-year term ending December 31, 2028; and Bob Johanns, Municipal Utilities Board, six-year term ending December 31, 2031. Kuester asked for thought on whether these terms are too long. Sawyer explained all but two of the members were returning for another term. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline opened the public forum at 7:07pm. No public comments, public forum closed at 7:08pm.

Finance Committee/Clerk made comments on setting wages for FY26; election forms for upcoming election; historic preservation commission meeting with SHPO office; and plans for 401 I Ave discussion.

Public Safety Committee made comments that the rescheduling of the active shooter training with the school district is May 20th; Officer Conger graduates from the academy this week; and Ford Taurus repair update.

Public Works Committee made comments on the YMCA request to use the Aquatic Center; wastewater treatment plant project; ditch along 235th Street and the Sports Complex discussion with county engineer to dig out the ditch for better drainage; and meeting with Rite Environmental, Inc. tomorrow morning.

Smith moved and Lamp seconded adjournment of the meeting at 7:35pm. Motion carried five ayes. Next meeting will be Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:30pm.

Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk

Dr. Paul Eberline, Mayor